

Good evening Dr. Shelton and Christina School Board Members! My name is Darren Tyson and I am the President of Christina Education Association and am speaking on our behalf.

We, the members of the National Education Association of the United States, in order that the Association serve as the national voice for education, advance the cause of public education for all individuals, promote the health and welfare of the children and/or students, promote professional excellence among educators, gain recognition of the BASIC importance of the teacher in the learning process and the other employees in the educational effort, protect the rights of educational employees and advance their interests and welfare, secure professional autonomy, promote, support and defend public employees' right to collective bargaining, unite educational employees for effective citizenship, promote and protect human and civil rights and obtain for its members of benefits of an independent, united education profession, are unapologetic in our requests!

In under 48 hours, Christina Education Association has had over 700 signatures, which include educators and their families, students' families, and community members. The community and our families believe in our cause and we accept, as we always have, their profound trust in us and therefore our message is this...

Delaware public schools are facing a decision to return to remote learning or a hybrid instructional model. We are concerned about the implementation of a hybrid model for several reasons. There are no statewide measures to alert teachers, staff, or parents of infections, leaving large populations vulnerable to the virus' spread. The current infrastructure is not prepared for the implementation of a hybrid model and large-scale modifications are required. There is a large financial burden to be incurred due to the need for modified transportation, creation of additional

classroom spaces, and hiring of additional custodial staff with adequate supplies to clean surfaces.

We believe that school buildings should not reopen for in-person instruction until we have reached a benchmark of 14 days with no new cases, and that all school staff and students must be provided with necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). We also call for a mask requirement for students and school staff, an adherence to a six feet social distancing requirement, and for each school to carry out an assessment and necessary upgrades to improve classroom ventilation to mitigate airborne spread of COVID-19.

We must prioritize safe school openings now! Make the correct decision to implement remote teaching now so educators can begin planning today how to connect with students, make learning engaging, and create impactful lessons.

We are still learning about the effects of the COVID-19 virus. Until we have better scientific metrics to guide decision making around reopening school buildings, we need to put a plan in place that will protect the lives of our students, our teachers and school staff, and everyone's families.

We request that distance learning be the instructional delivery method available to all teachers, parents, and students of Christina School District. We request that in-person instruction is NOT mandated by Christina School District until:

There are 14 consecutive days of no new cases of COVID-19 in New Castle County,

August 2021, or

A vaccine is approved.

We are calling for you to make this decision and the right decision, for we are unapologetic for our need to ensure the safety of our families, our students and their families, and us! Our families, personal and professional, and we, the educators, deserve nothing less than to have our lives protected. The Christina mission states and I quote... The mission of the Christina School District is to improve student outcomes and give every student opportunities to learn in an academically challenging, SAFE equitable, and nurturing school environment. **We pledge to value parents, caregivers, and families** as partners in educating all students to learn, live, and lead in the 21st century and beyond.

We, the members of the Christina Education Association, are asking you to do just that. Our lives are in your hands.

Christina EA is appreciative and looks forward to continue collaborating with the new CSD leadership team during this pandemic and time of uncertainty. We will continue to meet with the CSD leadership team weekly to discuss plans and processes for a safe reopen. CEA has members on each of the three Reopening Committees (Academics and Equity, Health and Wellness, and Operations and Services). We encourage our members to take an active role on district and building level committees and to make their voices heard and be part of the solutions! We are hopeful for a fresh start and look forward to the opportunities offered to collaborate with the new leadership and board to do what we are meant to do, safely educate our students!

Thank you for your time.